

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL 1, 2013

MEETING NOTES

Present: James Krzyminski, Paul Lofgren, Ron MacNab, David Magill, Mark Pharaoh, Chris Richardson, Sean Thomas Smith, Michael Waters, Felecia Wilson [via phone], James Zepp.

Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Mary Bradford [Parks], Christine Brett [Parks], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], and Susan Hoffmann [Rec], John Nissel [Parks].

Absent: Rose Alvarez, Erik Johnson, George Schlapo, Steve Beach [CUPF], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Ursula Hermann [MCPS], Kamran Rasul [Commission on Disabilities], Robin Riley [Rec].

Guests: Nancy Greene [Montgomery County-Department of Technical Services, and Bob Green [Parks].

Chair Report – Chris Richardson

- Chair Richardson welcomed everyone and introduced guests.
- Meeting Agenda and February 4, 2013 Meeting Notes were unanimously approved, with changes
- Chair Richardson distributed Board draft of the Employee Recognition program. A discussion ensued.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Montgomery County Recreation Budget Highlights:
 - Department received a 7½ increment
 - JCA will manage the transportation program for Montgomery County seniors. They have vans that can better navigate neighborhood streets to make pick ups at the door, when necessary. The program will launch in January. A long lead time is necessary to establish the routes. This was the principal request from the Commission on Aging.
- Plum Gar Community Recreation Center will be coming online this summer as a full service center with longer hours. It will have a soft opening, with the Grand Opening on July 20. All Countywide Recreation Advisory Board members are invited to attend.
- There is a greater County commitment to bring back resources to building maintenance.

- There is a waiting list for Montgomery County Recreation Summer Fun Centers.
- Hope to have definitive numbers on camps for May.
- Channel 9 – WUSA-TV covered our Senior Basketball tournament.
- Once we have our survey results, we will share them with you. One that we know: seniors are requesting WIFI at all centers.

CIP Update –Jeff

- White Oak Senior Center held its first Open House.
- Scotland Neighborhood Recreation Center held its groundbreaking on March 27.

Parks Update – Mary Bradford

- Tony DeVaul is absent due to a death in the family.
- The Parks budget was submitted and they will testify at Council on April 22.
- On April 2, they provide their semi-annual report on the Parks Department, and Park and Planning, including upcoming projects and development.
- April 7 saw the Persian New Year's celebration at Black Hill Regional Park.
- The Maryland General Assembly adjourns on April 9. Parks is tracking several bills, including Program Open Space.
- On April 27, 10am to noon, Woodstock Equestrian Park will be open.

Enterprise Fund – Christine Brett

- On March 17, the Wheaton Ice Rink held an Open House. They are considering a repurposing of the ice rink.
- Tennis has 399 contracts overall in March. Historical use at Wheaton was honored.
- An Open House is planned for April 7 at Seneca and Woodlawn – tents are up.
- March 30 saw the opening of the Skatepark.
- The train opened to a slow start, due to unusually cold weather.

ADA Compliance Joint Meeting – Nancy Greene, Montgomery County ADA Compliance Officer and Bob Green, Parks ADA Compliance Officer

- In August, Montgomery County signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice – THE Project Civic Access Settlement Agreement.
- DOJ issued updated specific standards for Parks and Recreation which need to be compliant with 2010 standards.
- White Oak Community Recreation Center, as new construction, is fully accessible: the building, the playground and the fields.

- Montgomery County Recreation and Parks are required to provide enough accessible fields so that persons with disabilities will have enough choices for fields and recreation opportunities.
- The request was made for the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board to hold a joint public forum with the Commission on People with Disabilities in June or September to look at the policy issues.
- There are 418 parks and not every one of them can be made accessible due to topography and geography, population density. It will be necessary to determine priorities. Putting forth the effort will be extremely important. Access to public transportation will carry higher weight
- Some parks are already upgraded. A transition plan will be developed. The most highly used facilities will get priority. A representative number must be made accessible.
- Paul Lofgren agreed to serve on the Field Leasing work group.

Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – East County Job Fair to be held April 6.
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – met on March 14. Regarding the Glenmont Redevelopment project, there were calls for incremental development. Del. Ben Kramer has introduced a bill to have the Glenmont region designated as an enterprise zone.

Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Steve Beach – absent
- Commission on Aging, Morton Davis – the Commission is pleased with the County Executive's plan to provide for senior transportation access in six months. Kudos to Jeff Bourne for his report.
- MCPS – Ursula Hermann – absent
- M-NCPPC Police, Chief Tony DeVaul – absent

Old/New Business

- Chair Richardson reminded the Board that she is meeting with the County Executive on April 9. The Chair invited board members to join her. Mark Pharaoh will attend.
- The Josiah Henson Park letter was distributed for comment. Staff will resend the letter with all changes prior to the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.